

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to the Office Action, claims 1-51 were pending. Through this reply, claims 5-6, 20-21, 26, 29 and 45-46 are canceled and claims 52-57 are added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 7-19, 22-25, 27-28, 30-44 and 47-57 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 9, 10, 25 and 40 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 21, 29, 45 and 46 includes allowable subject matter. In this Reply, independent claim 1 is amended to recite the features of claim 46 including intervening claims 5 and 6, independent claim 9 is amended to recite the features of claim 21 including intervening claim 20, independent claim 10 is amended to recite the features of claim 46, and independent claim 25 is amended to recite the features of claim 29 including intervening claim 26. Accordingly, these independent claims and the dependent claims thereon (claims 1-4, 7-19, 22-25, 27-28, 30-39 and 47-51) are now allowable.

CLAIMS 40-44 AND 51

As a result of the amendments to claims indicated above, only claims 40-44 and 51 remain rejected. In the Office Action, claims 40-42 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Belucci et al. (US Patent 5,913,542), Yamamoto et al. (JP 06-123197 A), and Blank (U.S. Patent 5,345,313). *See Office Action, item 11.* Also, claims 43 and 44 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Belucci, Yamamoto, Blank and Daly et al. (U.S. Patent 6,173,069). *See Office Action, item 11.* Applicant respectfully traverses both rejections.

Independent claim 40 recites, in part “calculating a characteristic value of the area, wherein the characteristic value of the area includes an average luminance, an average chromacity C_b, and an average chromacity C_r of the area.” None of Belucci, Yamamoto, Blank and Daly teach or suggest this feature. Consequently, independent claim 40 and the dependent claims 41-44 and 51 are distinguishable over any combination of Belucci, Yamamoto, Blank and Daly.

Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of claims 40-42 and 51 based on Belucci, Yamamoto and Blank and the rejection of claims 43-44 based on Belucci, Yamamoto, Blank and Daly be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 52-57 are added through this reply. No new matter is presented. All new claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in any combination, for at least due to their dependencies from independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the new claims be allowed.

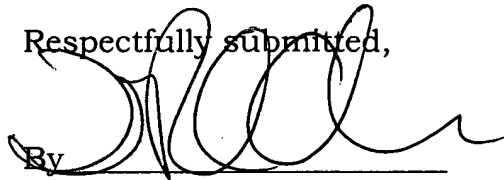
CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



By
D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH
& BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant